

SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT.
-----Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1943.

This Report is prepared on the lines asked for by the Minister of Health in Circular 2773. In accordance with his directions most information usually contained in the Report is omitted and filed for future reference.

Infectious Disease

There are no outstanding facts regarding the incidence of infectious disease in the district during the year which call for comment. Those cases requiring hospitalisation were admitted to Vine House Isolation Hospital, Sturminster Newton, administered by the North Dorset Joint Hospital Board. Three cases of Diphtheria were notified but the diagnosis was not confirmed in two of these.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The Council's Scheme making immunisation free of cost available to all children between the ages of one and fifteen years continued to operate during the year, a monthly treatment session being held at the First Aid Post, Gillingham. Sessions were also held in any particular village where the number of children awaiting treatment called for such an arrangement. The majority of children in the southern part of the district received treatment at the Clinic held monthly in the Borough of Shaftesbury.

At the 31st December 91% of children of school age and 75% of children under school age had received treatment.

Scabies

There has been a considerable reduction in the number of cases admitted to the Sick Bay during the year, and also in the number occurring in the district generally.

Venereal Disease

With a view to deciding what steps should be taken to deal with this matter, Medical Practitioners throughout the North Dorset District as a whole were asked to state how many cases of venereal disease they had attended during the twelve months. The replies received indicated that the incidence amongst the population was extremely small, only seven cases having been treated by them during the period in question. In view of this it was agreed to take no steps in the matter beyond the display of certain posters.

Evacuation

Good use was made throughout the year of the Hostel at East Orchard where accommodation is provided for 18 children. By the ready goodwill and mutual assistance of the Chief Billeting Officers reciprocal use by all the Authorities in North Dorset of the various Hostels and Nurseries within the several districts was again achieved.

Water Supplies

The water supply to the district has given considerable cause for anxiety, and a great deal of work has been done towards

the finding of fresh supplies. In view of the likely increased agricultural demands, and those for increased building, this matter will have to receive further careful consideration. The booster supply to Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna has not always been adequate for all requirements, but a 10,000 gallon tank in the course of construction at Buckhorn Weston will improve the position in that part of the district.

The yield from the Boyne Hollow source again decreased during the year, and has not been sufficient for the requirements of the area it serves. It was hoped to put a new scheme at Melbury Abbas in operation during 1944 to augment the supply.

The bacteriological and chemical quality of the Council's supplies has been generally satisfactory, but the condition of the private supplies has not been up to the required standard.

The approximate population supplied by water service connections is 8,479 and the number of houses 2,365.

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation of the courtesy and help afforded to me by your Council and Officers throughout the year.

G. B. SCOTT,

Temporary Medical Officer
of Health.

20th July, 1944.